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Labour Market Information Monthly

September 2010 Edition

Issue 9 Volume 7

Education indicators in Canada: An international perspective *

In 2008, 20% of Canadian teenagers aged 15 to 19 were no longer pursuing a formal education. This was higher than the average of 15% across the 31 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). While this OECD proportion was down from 20% in 1998, in Canada, it remained stable at 20%.

Provincially, the proportion of teenagers aged 15 to 19 no longer in school varied from 14% in New Brunswick to 26% in Alberta. The corresponding estimates for the territories ranged from 25% to 34%.

Some provinces appear to be more successful than others in meeting the challenge of integrating young people with relatively low educational attainment into the labour force.

In the Western provinces, there is an association between the relatively high employment rates (around 70%) and relatively high proportions of young people aged 15 to 19 not in education. This association suggests that labour markets with shortages can draw and employ young people regardless of their educational attainment, especially during periods of strong economic growth.

That said, employment and earnings prospects increase strongly with educational attainment. In 2008, the employment rate for Canadians aged 25 to 64 who had not completed high school was 58%, whereas the figure for college and university graduates was 83%.

Graduates from university programs earned considerably more, 75% more on average, than high school or trade/vocational program graduates.

According to the most recent data available, the college graduation rate in Canada, which includes only first-time graduates, was 26%, well above the OECD average rate of 10%. At the university level, the first-time bachelor's graduation rate was 34% in Canada, compared with the OECD average of 38%.

The report also shows that, in 2008, 42% of Canadians aged 25 to 64 had participated in formal or non-formal education or training (for job-related or personal reasons). This was comparable with the OECD average. The participation rate among those aged 25 to 34 was almost twice the rate of those aged 55 to 64.

Participation in adult education and training was related to educational attainment. In Canada, 18% of adults who had less than a high school diploma had participated in education and training. That figure tripled for college and university graduates.

Note: This information is contained in ***Education Indicators in Canada: An International Perspective***, the second in a series that place aspects of the educational systems in Canada's provinces and territories into an international context. The indicators were developed to align with definitions and methodologies used by the OECD.

* Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, September 7, 2010.

This Month

- Education indicators in Canada: An international perspective
- Key Labour Force Statistics
- The Industry Report

Produced by the Labour Market Analysis Branch (LMAB) of the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training & Labour
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The report was prepared by the Canadian Education Statistics Council, a joint venture of Statistics Canada and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada. It presents 10 indicators that capture information on educational attainment, graduation rates at the upper secondary and post-secondary levels, labour market outcomes, the economic benefits of education, expenditures on education, international students, transitions to the labour market, and participation in adult learning.

The report ***Education Indicators in Canada: An International Perspective***, is now available from the Key resource module of Statistics Canada's website under Publications (http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-604-x/81-604-x2010001-eng.htm)

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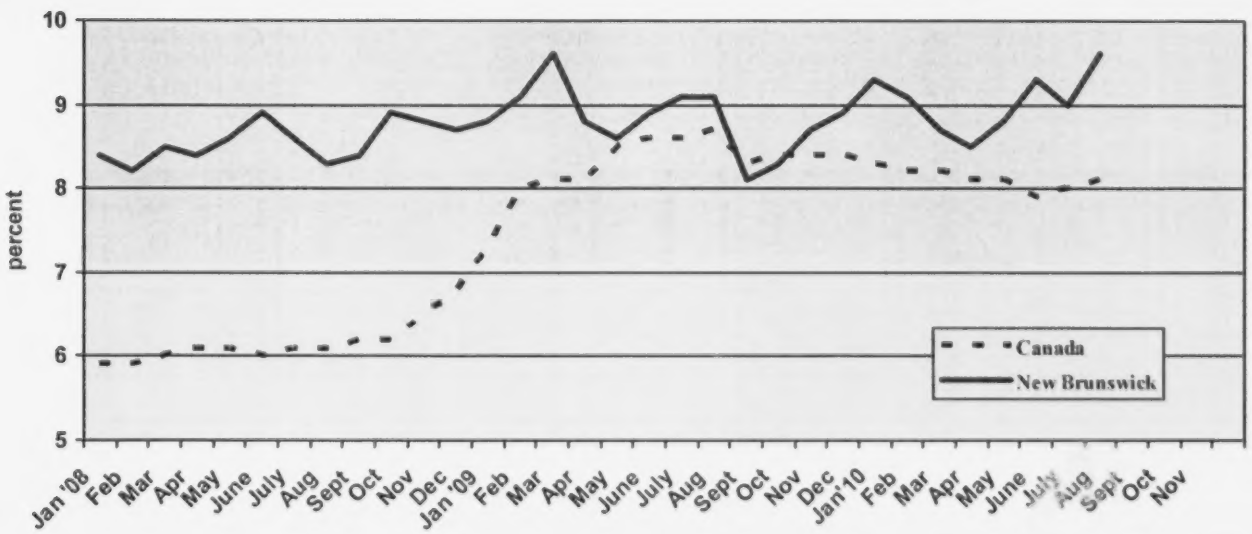
KEY LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK (Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey)

New Brunswick	YTD	August '10	July '10	August'09
Labour Force	401,200	**403,400**	398,800	402,800
Employed	365,000	**364,800**	363,000	366,200
Unemployed	36,200	**38,600**	35,800	36,600
Unemployment Rate	9.0%	**9.6%**	9.0%	9.1%
Participation Rate	64.3%	**64.5%**	63.8%	64.8%
Employment Rate	58.5%	**58.3%**	58.1%	58.9%

CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK

In August, Canada's unemployment rate was 8.1%, 0.1 of a percentage point higher than last month but 0.6 of a percentage point lower than the same time last year. New Brunswick's rate of 9.6% was 0.6 of a percentage point higher than last month and 0.5 of a percentage point higher than the same time last year, when it stood at 9.1%.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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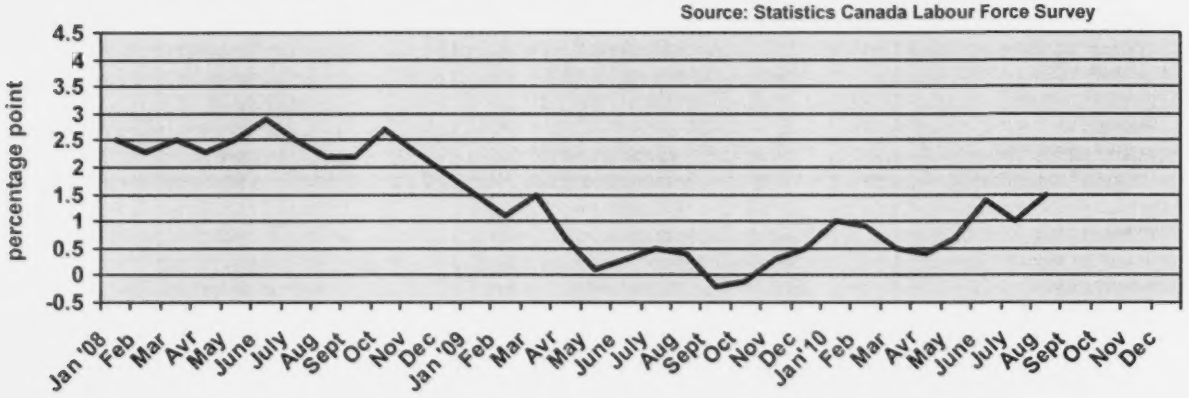
CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK (continued)

The gap between the national and provincial rates was 1.5 of a percentage point in August.

DIFFERENCE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA

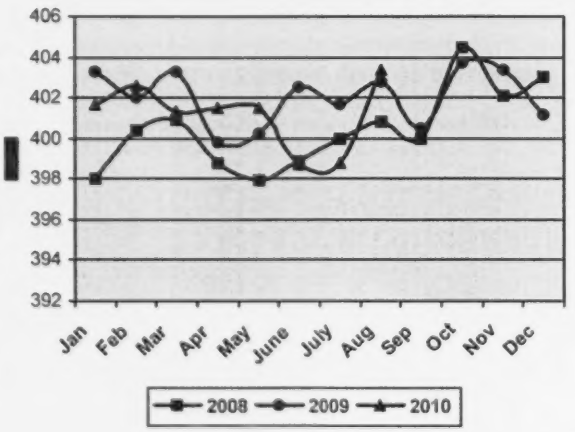
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey



THE LABOUR FORCE

New Brunswick's labour force stood at 403,400 in August. This was an increase of 4,600 over last month, and an increases of 600 over the same time last year.

THE SIZE OF THE LABOUR FORCE



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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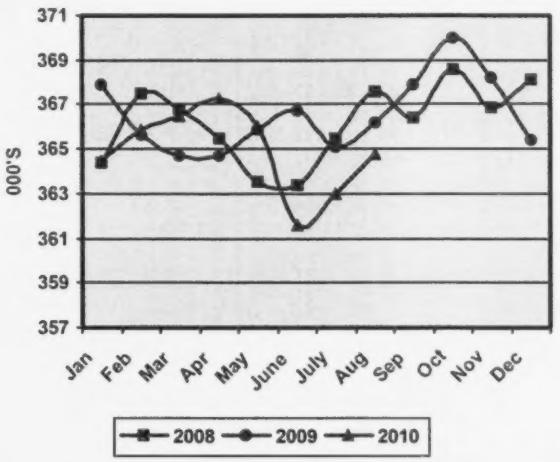
EMPLOYMENT

There were 364,800 people working in August. This was 1,800 more than last month but 1,400 less when compared to the same period last year.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK

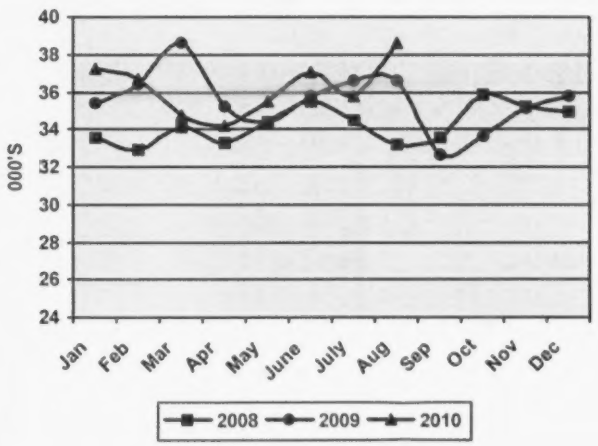


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

UNEMPLOYMENT

There were 38,600 people unemployed and seeking work in August. This is 2,800 more people than what was recorded last month and is 2,000 more compared to the same period last year.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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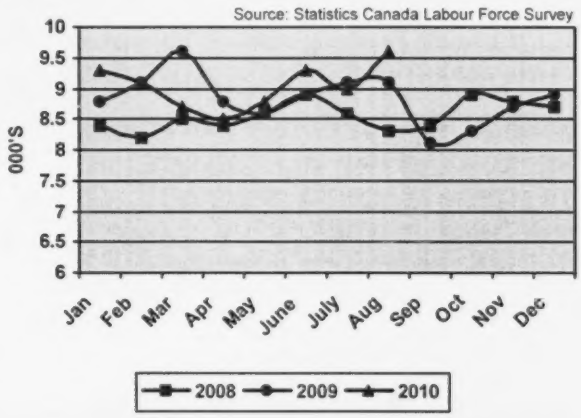
THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

New Brunswick's unemployment rate of 9.6% in August was 0.6 of a percentage point higher than last month and was 0.5 of a percentage point higher than the same time last year .

THE ECONOMIC REGIONS

Statistics Canada reports labour force statistics for the economic regions as three month moving averages of actual (not seasonally adjusted) data.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN NEW BRUNSWICK



August'10	Economic Regions				
	Northeast	Southeast	Southwest	Central	Northwest
Labour Force	76,600	118,600	96,700	75,900	47,900
Employment	66,000	110,400	88,500	70,700	43,200
Unemployment	10,600	8,200	8,200	5,300	4,700
Unemployment Rate	13.8%	6.9%	8.5%	7.0%	9.8%
Participation Rate	56.9%	69.6%	66.9%	70.7%	70.3%

Economic Regions	YTD		August'10		August'09	
	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR
Northeast	61,400	16.1%	66,000	13.8%	69,000	14.1%
Southeast	105,200	7.1%	110,400	6.9%	108,000	8.5%
Southwest	85,900	8.8%	88,500	8.5%	93,200	5.9%
Central	69,900	7.0%	70,700	7.0%	70,700	6.6%
Northwest	39,400	10.1%	43,200	9.8%	41,300	9.0%

On a year-over-year basis (August 2010 compared to August 2009), employment increased in the Southeast (+2,400) and Northwest (+1,900) regions while it decreased in the Southwest (-4,700) and Northeast (-3,000) economic regions. Employment remained unchanged in the Central region.

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THE INDUSTRY REPORT

Employment growth on a year-over-year basis was strongest in the following sectors*:

Other Services (8.6%) - In August of 2010, there were approximately 16,400 people employed in this sector. There are now 3,500 fewer people employed in this sector then there were in April of 2006 (the record high for this sector). This is the thirteenth consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than or equal to the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 14 of those months (all coming in the last 16 months). So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 15.4% higher than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (eight months into the year).

Construction (8.0%) - In August of 2010, there were approximately 29,700 people employed in this sector. There are now 1,400 fewer people employed in this sector than two month previously (the record high employment level for this sector). This is the nineteenth consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was higher than or tied with the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 21 of those months (this suggests this sector is doing well). So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 8.4% higher than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (eight months into the year).

Trade (5.3%) – In August of 2010, there were approximately 57,500 people employed in this sector. There are 3,400 fewer people employed in this sector than in August of 2005 (the record high for this sector). This is the seventh consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in eight of those months. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 4.8% higher than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (eight months into the year).

Employment was weaker on a year-over-year basis in the following sectors**:

Agriculture (-13.2%) – In August of 2010, there were approximately 5,900 people employed in this sector. There are 2,900 fewer people employed in this sector then there were in September of 1992 (the record high for this sector). This is the eighth month out of the last nine where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than or tied with the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 16 of those months. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 14.3% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (eight months into the year).

Manufacturing (-10.6%) - In August of 2010, there were approximately 29,600 people employed in this sector. There are 14,000 fewer people employed in this sector then there were in January of 2004 (the record high for this sector). This is only the fourth month in the last nine where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only 8 of those months.

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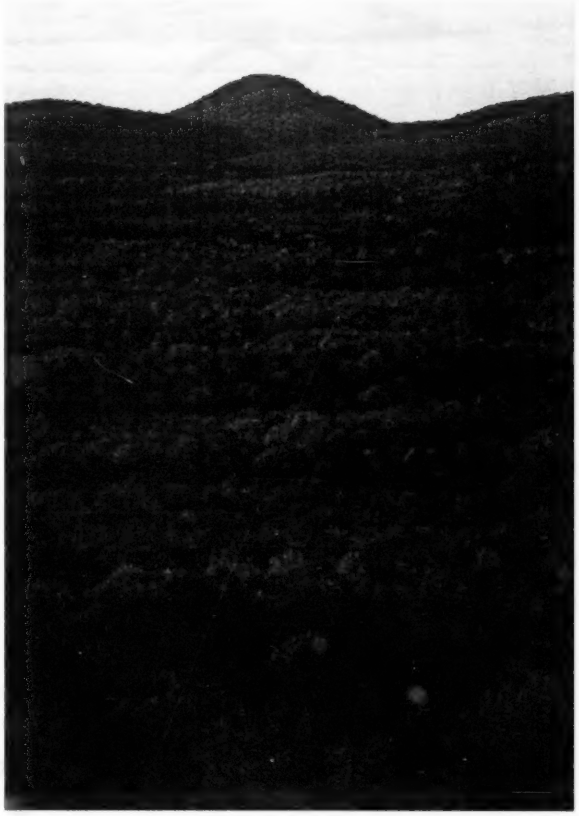
THE INDUSTRY REPORT (continued)

So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 3.0% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (eight months into the year).

Information, Culture and Recreation (-10.4%) – In August of 2010, there were approximately 12,000 people employed in this sector. There are 3,100 fewer people employed in this sector then there were in September of 1999 (the record high for this sector). This is only the first month that this sector has experienced a year-over-year decline in employment. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 15 of those months (all in the last 16 months). So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 10.6% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (eight months into the year).

Accommodation and Food Services (-10.0%) – In August of 2010, there were approximately 20,800 people employed in this sector. There are 6,400 fewer people employed in this sector then there were in May of 2006 (the record high for this sector). This is the six month out of the last seven where this sector has experienced a year-over-year decline in employment. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only six of those months. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 5.2% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (eight months into the year).

** Includes the bottom three growth sectors and all sectors that posted a 10% or greater (year-over-year) decrease in employment



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